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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,908	02/20/2002	Rudolf Ritter	219595US2PCT	2389

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

PENG, FRED H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/24/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/24/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/049,908

Applicant(s)

RITTER ET AL.

Examiner

Fred Peng

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-13 and 15-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-13 and 15-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 4-13, 15-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lawler (US 5,758,259).

Regarding Claims 23 and 24, Lawler discloses a system with corresponding method for distributing picture objects (FIG.1) comprising a communications network (FIG.1, -14), at least one media center (FIG.1, -12) connected to this communications network, a user interests database (FIG.1, -202a) connected to the media center, in which user interests database user interests profiles are stored (FIG.6, 142; Col 10 lines 48-52), a picture object database connected to the media center (FIG.1, -202b), in which picture object database the picture objects and picture object information assigned to these picture objects are stored (FIG.1, -202a, FIG.5, -122), and one or more communications terminals (FIG.1, -20) connectible to this communications network which each have a display unit (FIG.1, -18) by means of which display unit the picture objects are made visible to a user of one of the communications terminals, wherein

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the picture object information (FIG.3B, 94) assigned to the picture objects (FIG.3B, -80, Trailside: make Your Own Adventure) comprises data concerning products and/or services (video program service);

the user interests profiles comprise data relating to products and/or services in which the respective user is interested (FIG.5, -130, Col 7 lines 54-61);

user identification data assigned to the user interests profiles are stored in the user interests database (Col 7 lines 39-43),

the media center comprises means of carrying out the following functions:

receiving user identification data which are transmitted in each case by one of the communications terminal via the communications network to the media center (FIG.5, -126, Col 7 lines 44-47),

determining the user interests profile which is assigned to the received user identification data (FIG.5, 130, Col 7 lines 54-61),

determining picture objects in which the respective user might be interested by selecting picture objects to which picture object information is assigned having at least one correlation with information from the determined user interests profile (FIG.6, -144, Col 8 lines 54-66, Col 9 lines 1-11), and

transmitting at least one of the selected picture objects over the communications network to the respective communications terminal from which the received user identification data were transmitted (FIG.6, -146, Col 9 lines 12-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-13, 16-19, 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler (US 5,758,259) in view of Scarampi (US 4,931,865).

Regarding Claims 1 and 12, Lawler discloses a system (FIG.1) with corresponding method for distributing picture objects comprising a communications network (FIG.1, -14), at least one media center (FIG.1, -12) connected to this communications network, a user interests database connected to the media center, in which user interests database user interests profiles are stored (FIG.1, -202a, FIG.6, 142; Col 10 lines 48-52), a picture object database connected to the media center, in which picture object database the picture objects and picture object information assigned to these picture objects are stored (FIG.1, -202a, FIG.5, -122), and one or more communications terminals (FIG.1, -20) connectible to this communications network which each have a display unit (FIG.1, -18) by means of which display unit the picture objects are made visible to a user of one of the communications' terminals, wherein

user identification data assigned to the user interests profiles are stored in the user interests database (FIG.5, -126; Col 7 lines 39-43),

the media center comprises means of carrying out the following functions:

receiving user identification data which are transmitted in each case by one of the communications terminal via the communications network to the media center (FIG.5, -126, Col 7 lines 44-47),

determining the user interests profile which is assigned to the received user identification data (FIG.5, 130, Col 7 lines 54-61),

determining picture objects to which picture object information is assigned having at least one correlation with information from the determined user interests profile (FIG.6, -144; Col 8 lines 54-66, Col 9 lines 1-11), and

transmitting at least one of the selected picture objects over the communications network to the respective communications terminal from which the received user identification data were

transmitted. Lawler further discloses the media center comprises an interests-determining module which, on the basis of the picture objects selected through the user, determines the user interest profiles and stores them in the user interests database (FIG.6, -146; Col 9 lines 12-18).

However, Lawler fails to disclose the communications terminals each comprising a direction-of-view-determining module for determining the current direction of view of at least one eye of the user; the media center further comprising a direction-of-view-evaluation module, which, on the basis of the current direction of view that is transmitted in each case by the respective communications terminal over the communication network to the media center, and on the basis of video objects and/or picture objects transmitted from the media center over the communications network to the respective communications terminal, determines picture objects being viewed by the user of the respective communications terminal.

In an analogous art, Scarampi discloses the communications terminals (FIG.1, FIG.2, -10) each comprising a direction-of-view-determining module (FIG.2, -32, -34, -36) for determining the current direction of view of at least one eye of the user (FIG.1, -11, -18; Col 6 lines 61-65; Col 7 lines 2-6); the media center further comprising a direction-of-view-evaluation module, which, on the basis of the current direction of view that is transmitted in each case by the respective communications terminal over the communication network to the media center, and on the basis of video objects and/or picture objects transmitted from the media center over the communications network to the respective communications terminal, determines picture objects being viewed by the user of the respective communications terminal (Col 5 lines 55-61).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lawler's system to include the communications terminals each comprising a direction-of-view-determining module for determining the current direction of view of at least one eye of the user; the media center further comprising a direction-of-view-evaluation module, which, on the basis of the current direction of view that is transmitted in each case by the respective communications terminal over the communication network to the media center, and on the basis of video objects and/or picture objects transmitted from the media center over the

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communications network to the respective communications terminal, determines picture objects being viewed by the user of the respective communications terminal, as taught by Scarampi with the added advantage of providing more accurate and detailed viewing characteristic data from the users for the service providers.

Regarding Claims 2 and 13, Lawler further discloses the interests-determining module is configured to determine the user interests profiles on the basis of the picture object information in each case assigned to the picture objects selected through the direction-of-view-evaluation module (FIG.5, -122, -124, -126, -130; Col 5 lines 52-59).

Regarding Claims 5 and 16, Lawler further discloses the media center comprising means for inserting the selected picture objects into video objects (FIG.6, -142, -144, -146; FIG.3B, -80, Personal Preference, Kung Fu: The Legend Continues is the selected picture objects), which video objects are transmitted from the media center (FIG.1, -12) over the communications network (FIG.1, -14) to a respective communications terminal (FIG.1, -20), where they are made visible to the user of the respective communications terminal by means of the display unit (FIG.1, -18).

Regarding Claims 6 and 17, Lawler further discloses a video synthesizer for generating video objects from stored media objects (FIG.1, -202b), the media objects to which media object information is assigned being selected such that the media object information has at least one correlation with the information from the determined user interests profile (FIG.6, -144, -146; Col 9 lines 7-18).

Regarding Claims 7 and 18, Scarampi further discloses the user identification data include biometric user features, and the communications terminals have sensors for capturing these biometric user features (Col 5 lines 24-31).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Lawler with the user identification data including biometric user features, and the communications terminals have sensors for capturing these biometric user features, as taught by Scarampi as a secure way to handle the transaction, such as ordering a service.

Regarding Claims 8 and 19, Scarampi further discloses the biometric user features comprising retinal patterns (Col 6 lines 54-61), and the sensors comprising micro-electromechanical scanners for capturing these retinal patterns (Col 3 lines 62-65).

Regarding Claims 10 and 21, Lawler further discloses the communications network comprising a mobile radio network and the communications terminals comprising mobile radio device (FIG.1, -14, Col 3 lines 53-57. Person skilled in the art knows any communication path suitable for distributing program guide data includes mobile radio link).

Regarding Claims 11 and 22, Lawler further discloses the system and corresponding method comprising a picture object input module (FIG.1, 16) for receiving picture objects and assigned picture object information relating in each case to products and/or services (FIG.3B, -80, -94, Trailside: Make your own adventure and its assigned information) and being entered via a communications network by providers of such products and/or services (FIG.1, -204, Col 10 lines 36-42), and for storing the received picture objects and assigned picture objects information in the picture object database (FIG.1, -202a, -202b, Col 10 lines 48-58).

6. Claims 4 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler (US 5,758,259) and Scarampi (US 4,931,865) as applied to claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 above, and further in view of Ellis et al (US 2003/0149988 A1).

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Regarding Claims 4 and 15, Lawler and Scarampi disclose limitations in Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 above. Lawler further discloses a respective user include an unambiguous user identification (Col 7 lines 39-43).

Lawler and Scarampi fail to disclose the picture object information includes order numbers, and the media center includes an order module which initiates an order for one of the selected picture objects, for which order the order number assigned to this picture object and the unambiguous user identification of the respective user are used.

In an analogous art, Ellis discloses the picture object information includes order numbers (FIG.5a, -370, 374), and the media center includes an order module (FIG.15a, -370) which initiates an order for one of the selected picture objects (FIG.15a, -374; AIR FORCE is the picture object), for which order the order number assigned to this picture object and the unambiguous user identification of the respective user are used (Para 142 lines 7-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Lawler with the picture object information includes order numbers, and the media center includes an order module which initiates an order for one of the selected picture objects, for which order the order number assigned to this picture object and the unambiguous user identification of the respective user are used, as taught by Ellis as a standard and convenient way to identify the purchase item for a particular user.

7. Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawler (US 5,758,259) and Scarampi (US 4,931,865) as applied to Claims 1 and 12 above, and further in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

Regarding Claims 9 and 20, Lawler and Scarampi disclose a system and corresponding method for distributing picture object for Claims 1 and 12 above.

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However, Lawler and Scarampi fail to teach the display unit comprising a virtual retinal display unit which projects light signals corresponding to video objects and/or picture objects directly onto the retina of the user.

Based on the applicant's admitted prior art, one skilled in the art at the time will understand the display unit comprising a virtual retinal display unit which projects light signals corresponding to video objects and/or picture objects directly onto the retina of the user (See applicant's spec page 8 lines 34-35, page 9 lines 1-4).

It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Lawler and Scarampi with the display unit comprising a virtual retinal display unit which projects light signals corresponding to video objects and/or picture objects directly onto the retina of the user taught by the applicant's admitted prior art as it can be advantageous to adapt the virtual retinal display device, such that it is able to receive and process different data formats efficiently, depending upon the picture objects used.

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Conclusion

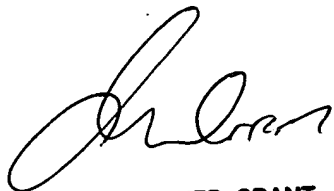
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Peng whose telephone number is (571) 270-1147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 08:30-18:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on (571) 272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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